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Title: Need to impress upon the Sri Lankan Government to release 77 Indian fishermen.

SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA (RAMANATHAPURAM): Madam, the Sri Lankan Navy have been harassing and arresting the Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu continuously, and have been detaining their fishing boats even after the release of the fishermen. They also destroyedthe fishing nets and boats of these fishermen.
The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma being very sensitive to the sufferings of the poor fisherman and their families, has been writing, time and again, to the Prime Minister, requesting him to make personal intervention on this issue; and for setting free the arrested fishermen and their boats. Hon. Amma has even provided appropriate relief measures and help to repair the released boats which were destroyed by the Sri Lankan Navy, to save the lives of the poor fishermen.

While no visible action was initiated by the Ministry of External Affairs for the release of arrested fishermen and their boats and all our genuine requests have been falling on deaf ears, it has emboldened the Sri Lankan Navy to harass them unabatedly.

The hon. Chief Minister, Amma, has repeatedly emphasized the importance of the Government of India undertaking a strong diplomatic offensive to uphold the rights and interests of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu.

The permanent solution to solve this problem is the retrieval of Katchatheevu and encouraging the deep sea fishing. This is the view of our hon. Chief Minister, Amma, who has repeated insisted to the Centre. But the Centre has not come forward to listen to the views of our Amma to find a permanent solution to this issue.

Hence, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to intervene in this matter to secure the immediate relief of 77 fishermen and 104 fishing boats from Sri Lankan custody and to provide a permanent solution of this serious issue. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Bhairo Prasad Mishra and

Shrimati V. Sathyabama are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri A. Anwhar Raajhaa.